

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method for presenting categorized information on a computer-enabled user interface, the method comprising:

displaying one or more categories for the categorized information;
receiving a user selection of a category of the one or more categories; and
independently retrieving data associated with the selected category so that the displayed categories remain responsive to user interaction while the data is being retrieved.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

placing a request for retrieval of the data in a queue; and
processing the request from the queue asynchronously with respect to the displaying step.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a user request for cancellation of the data retrieval; and,
in response to the user request, canceling the data retrieval.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the selected category is one of a plurality of categories selected by the user, and the method further comprises:

receiving a user request to boost the priority of at least one selected category; and,
in response to receiving the user request, boosting the priority of the at least one selected category.

Claim 5 (Original): A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the displaying step is performed by a main thread and the retrieving step is performed by a worker thread executing asynchronously with respect to the main thread.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 6, wherein when the worker thread has finished retrieving the data, it notifies the main thread that the data is available.

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Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 6, wherein the worker thread places the retrieved data in a cache, the main thread accesses the data from the cache and displays the data.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the retrieved data is stored in a cache, the method further comprising obtaining the data from the cache for display on a user interface.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 9, further comprising:
receiving a user request to refresh the display of the data; and,
in response to the user request, marking the data in the cache as dirty.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 9, further comprising:
receiving a user request to display a partially retrieved portion of the data;
in response to the user request, obtaining the partially retrieved portion from the cache; and
displaying the partially retrieved portion of the data.

Claim 12 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the categories are displayed as nodes of a graphical hierarchy.

Claim 13 (Original): The method of claim 12, wherein the graphical hierarchy is a tree.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): A computer-implemented method for displaying a plurality of categories, the method comprising:

displaying a populated portion of the plurality of categories on a screen;

displaying a placeholder to represent an unpopulated portion of the plurality of categories, wherein the placeholder indicates to the user ~~the~~ a retrieval status of the data required to populate the unpopulated portion.

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Claim 15 (Original): The method of claim 14, wherein the plurality of categories are displayed as nodes of a graphical hierarchy, and wherein the placeholder is displayed as a node of the graphical hierarchy.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of claim 15, wherein the graphical hierarchy is a tree.

Claim 17 (Original): A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 14.

Claim 18 (Original): A computer-implemented method for presenting data, the method comprising:

executing a first thread for displaying a graphical hierarchy having one or more nodes; and,

executing, independently of the first thread, a second thread of execution for retrieving data associated with at least one of the one or more nodes.

Claim 19 (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein the second thread retrieves data for populating the hierarchy.

Claim 20 (Original): The method of claim 18, further comprising receiving a user selection of a node of the one or more nodes, wherein the second thread retrieves data associated with the selected node.

Claim 21 (Original): The method of claim 20, further comprising displaying the retrieved data on a computer screen adjacent to the hierarchy.

Claim 22 (Original): The method of claim 20, further comprising displaying the retrieved data on a computers screen in one pane on a computer screen and displaying the hierarchy on another.

Alp Claim 23 (Original): A computer-readable medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 18.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The method of claim 18, wherein ~~the second~~ the second thread retrieves data based on an assumption as to whether the user wishes to have the data retrieved, without an explicit selection by the user.

Claim 25 (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein the second thread retrieves data based on which nodes have been frequently selected by the user.

Claim 26 (Original): A system for presenting categorized information on a computer-enabled user interface, the system comprising:

- a user interface for receiving a user selection of at least one category of information;

- a means for executing a main thread for requesting the retrieval of data associated with the selected category;

- a cache that is accessible to the main thread; and

- a means for executing a worker thread for retrieving the requested data and storing it in the cache.
